



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Tennessee Rehabilitation Center graduates 64 Friday, Aug. 30** *As graduates begin journeys, Vocational Rehabilitation hits jobs milestone*

**NASHVILLE, TN.** — More than 60 professionals embarked on new journeys Friday, as they graduated from the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna. These students – whose disabilities include traumatic brain injury, cognitive impairments and blindness – have received workplace and life management skills to enhance their chosen occupational paths.

Through classroom and hands-on training that ranges from auto maintenance to business education and from food service to building maintenance, the graduates have learned skills to prepare them for success in the workforce.

“It’s an honor to share in the achievements of TRC’s graduates,” said Tennessee Department of Human Services Commissioner Raquel Hatter. “These students have worked very hard in their programs to obtain skills that will propel them toward greater successes.”

The graduation comes on the heels of the department’s Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) reaching a milestone: In the fiscal year that ended in June, 2,001 VR participants found gainful employment. The figure represents a 9 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2012’s placement rate.

“This is the type of success students and their instructors envision from participating in TRC programs,” Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Cherrell Campbell-Street said. Kelly Savage of Pro Charging Systems delivered the commencement address. A student speaker, Justin Woods, shared the podium during the graduation program, which took place this morning in the center’s gymnasium.

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility and is one of eight such centers in the nation. TRC provided vocational rehabilitation services to

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nearly 1,100 students in FY 2013 and has an employment rate of 94 percent since 2011. Since opening its doors in 1977, the TRC has provided life and job skills training to more than 32,000 Tennesseans living with disabilities.

Services are provided on campus and the majority of students live in residential units on the campus, while receiving services. The TRC is located at 460 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Smyrna, just east of the Smyrna Airport near Sam Ridley Parkway. For more information on the center, please visit <http://tn.gov/humanserv/rehab/trc.html> or call (615) 459-6811.

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